

**CLASS – 10**

**ENGLISH**

**First Flight**

**Poem : Amanda!**

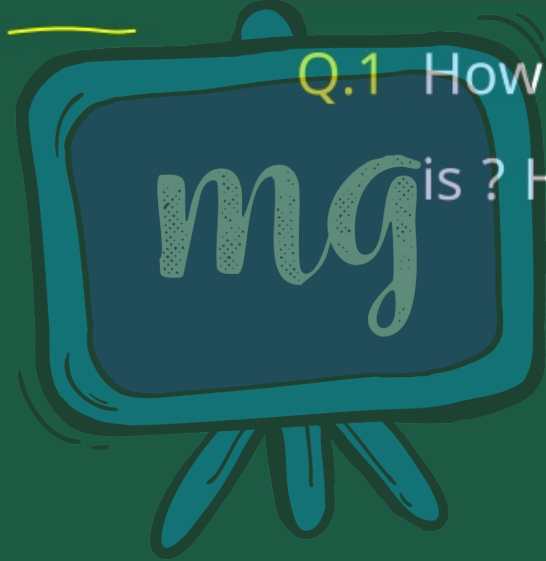
**Part – 3**

**Comprehension**

**KOMAL JETWANI**

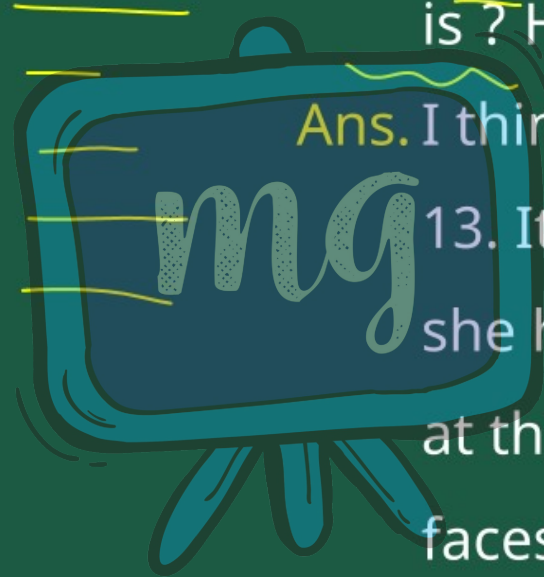


## THINKING ABOUT THE POEM



Q.1 How old do you think Amanda  
is ? How do you know this ?

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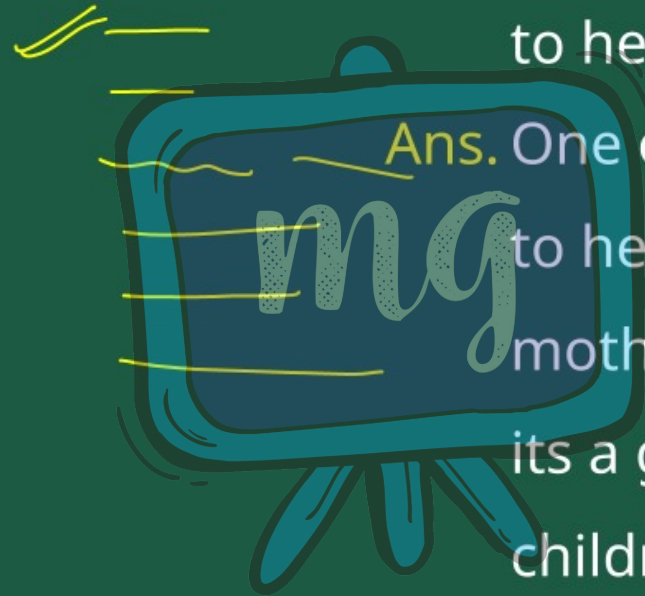
Ans. I think Amanda is around 12 or 13. It is clear from the 'acnes' she has. Usually, boys or girls at this age have them on their faces.



Q.2 Who do you think is speaking  
to her ?



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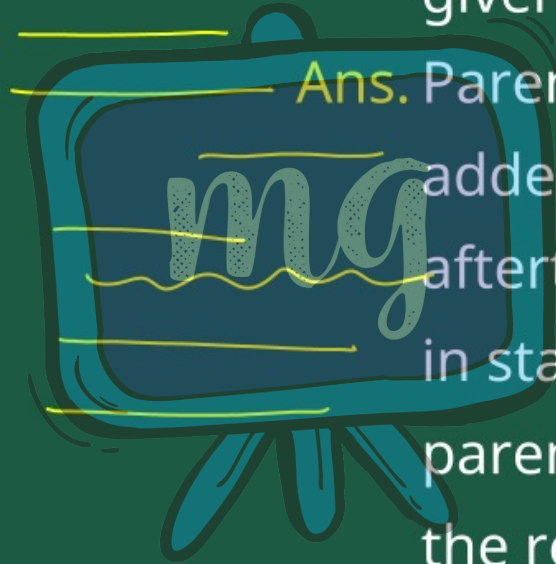


Ans. One of her parents is speaking to her. Probably it could be her mother. We think this because its a general perception that children are taken care of by their mothers at home.

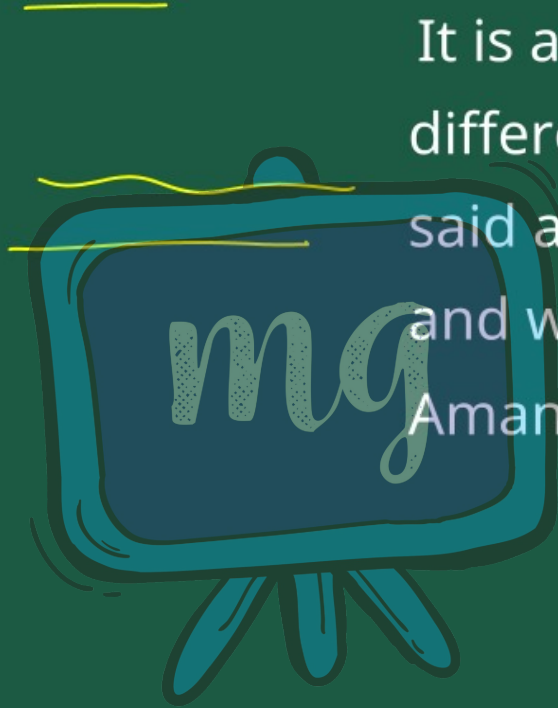
Q.3 Why are Stanzas 2, 4 and 6  
given in parentheses ?



*singular* Q.3 Why are Stanzas 2, 4 and 6 given in parentheses?



Ans. Parenthesis is a remark that is added as an explanation or afterthought into a passage. So in stanzas 2, 4 and 6 parenthesis is used to describe the reaction of child Amanda towards her mother's continuous nagging.

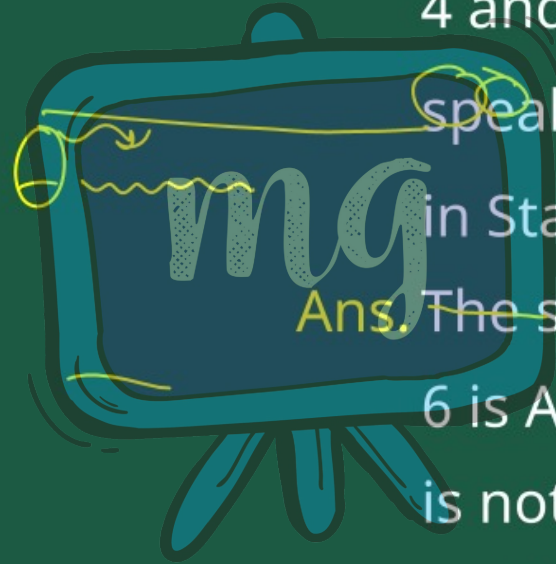


It is also employed here to differentiate between what is said aloud by Amanda's mother and what is going on in Amanda's thoughts.

Q.4 Who is the speaker in Stanzas  
2, 4 and 6? Do you think this  
speaker listening to the

Amanda - 2, 4, 6 speaker in Stanzas 1, 3, 5  
Amanda's Mother - 1 and 7?

**Q.4** Who is the speaker in Stanzas 2, 4 and 6? Do you think this speaker listening to the speaker in Stanzas 1, 3, 5 and 7?



**Ans.** The speaker in stanzas 2, 4 and 6 is Amanda. We think that she is not listening to what her mother says in stanzas 1, 3, 5 and 7.

She is completely lost in her own  
thought.

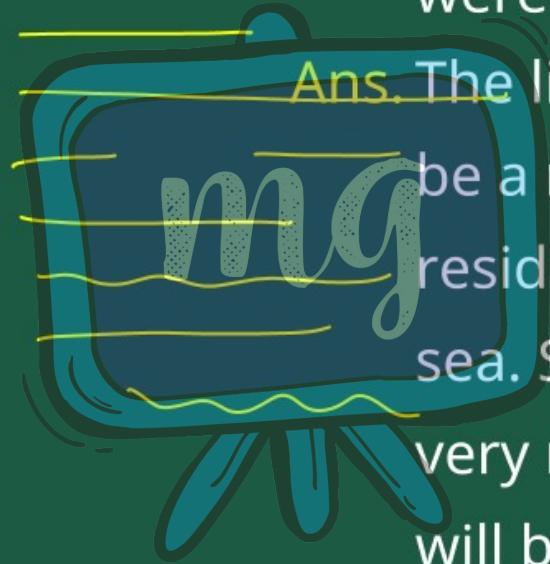
She imagines herself as a mermaid,  
an orphan and Rapunzel.



Q.5 What could Amanda do if she  
were a mermaid?



**Q.5** What could Amanda do if she were a mermaid?

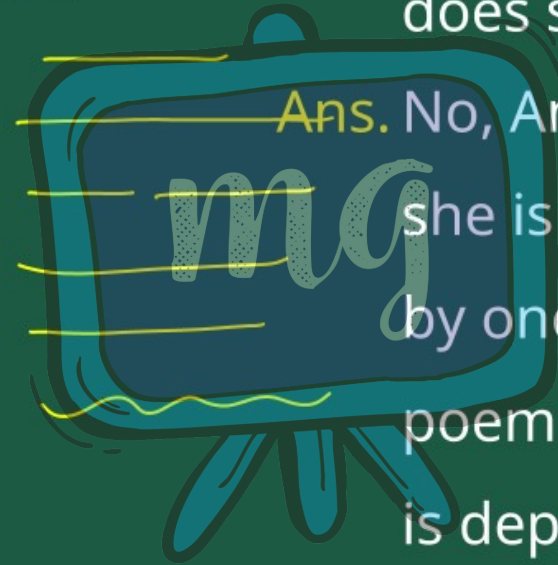


**Ans.** The little girl Amanda wants to be a mermaid and the only resident of the beautiful green sea. She thinks her life will be very relaxing in the sea and she will be taken away with the currents of water. She will be able to enjoy her freedom.

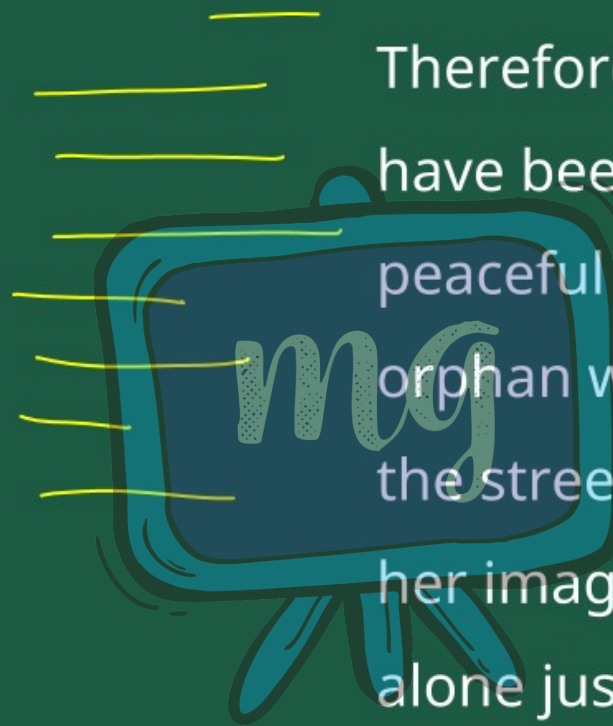
Q.6 Is Amanda an orphan? Why  
does she say so?



**Q.6** Is Amanda an orphan? Why  
does she say so?



**Ans.** No, Amanda is not an orphan as she is constantly being nagged by one of her parents in the poem. She said so because she is depressed by the continuous scolding and wants to seek complete isolation.

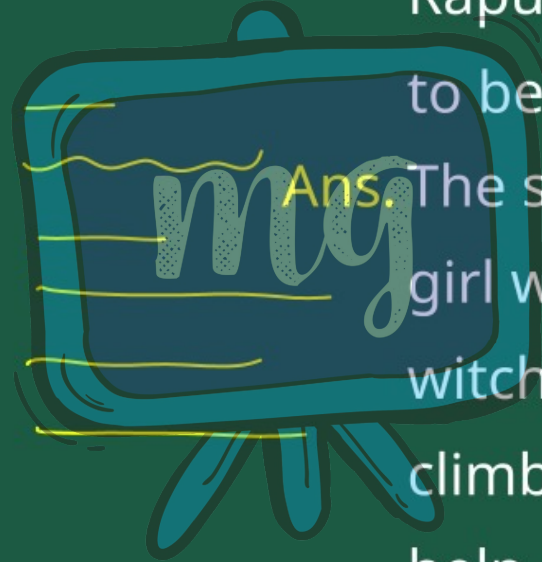


Therefore, she feels that it would have been much better and peaceful if she would have been an orphan who would roam freely in the street. Being an orphan is just her imagination of being completely alone just as being a mermaid or Rapunzel.

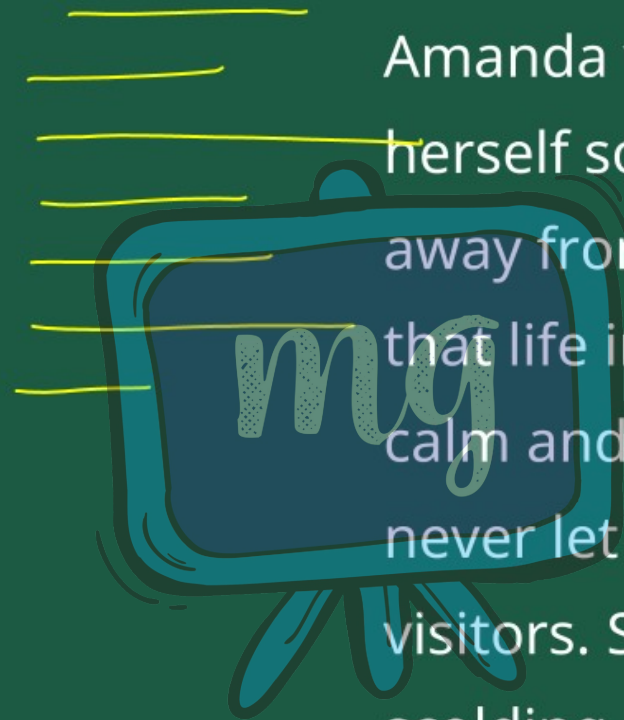
Q.7 Do you know the story of  
Rapunzel? Why does she want  
to be Rapunzel?



**Q.7** Do you know the story of Rapunzel? Why does she want to be Rapunzel?



**Ans.** The story of Rapunzel is of a girl who is captured by an old witch in a tower. The old witch climbs up the tower with the help of Rapunzel's very long hair which she let down for her through a window of the tower.



Amanda wants to be a Rapunzel herself so that she could go far away from her parents. She feels that life in that tower will be very calm and she makes it a point to never let her hair down for any visitors. She is so fed up with the scolding of her parents that she wants to live all alone in that tower with no one to tell her what to do.

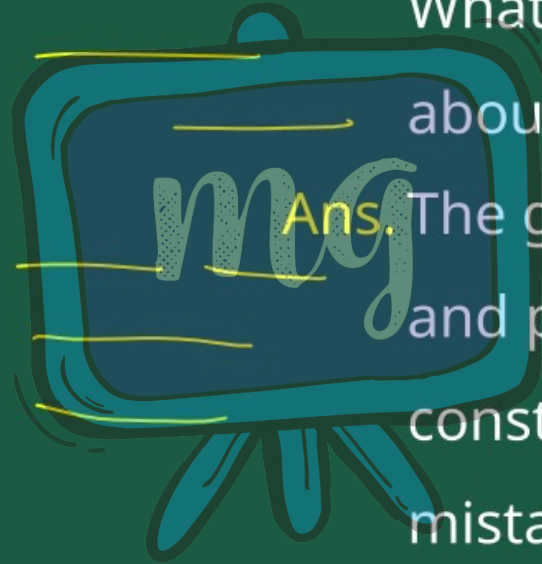
Q.8 What does the girl yearn for?

What does this poem tell you  
about Amanda?



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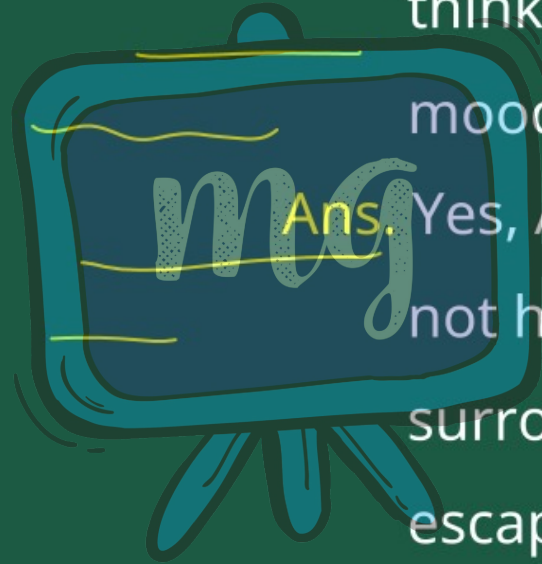
Ans. The girl yearns for freedom  
and peace in her life. She is  
constantly scolded of her  
mistakes. Her parents want her  
to be a well mannered and  
obedient girl.

Amanda does not like all these instructions and scoldings. She takes these in a very negative way and wants to run away from all these and her parents.

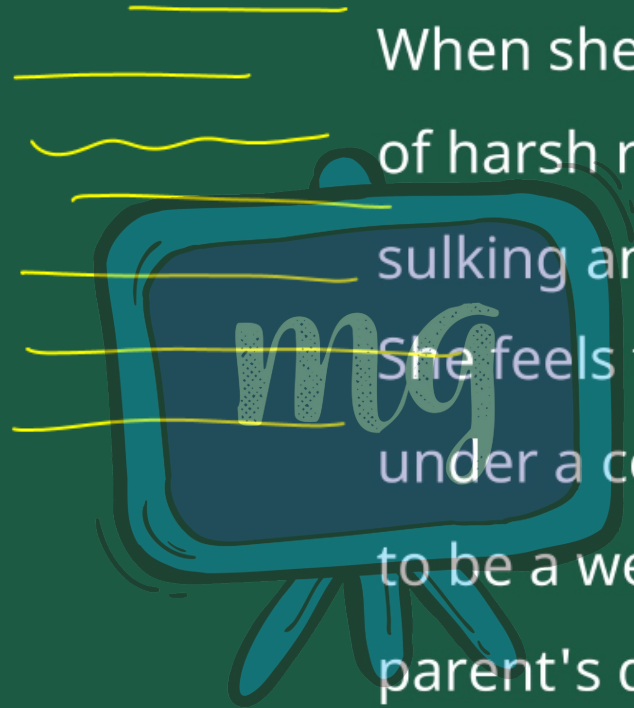
Q.9 Read the last stanza. Do you think Amanda is sulking and is moody?



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**Ans.** Yes, Amanda is sulking. She is not happy with her surroundings. She often escapes to the world of day dreams.



When she comes back to the world of harsh reality, she seems to be sulking and moody. She feels that she is not free and is under a constant pressure of trying to be a well behaved girl as per her parent's demand.